

## Leta Howard

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**From:** Carolyn Claerhout <carolynclaerhout@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2011 10:03 PM  
**To:** Leta Howard  
**Subject:** SB 618-624

As a parent of a 4th and 5th grade elementary school students, I am very disappointed that the state senate is looking at destroying public education as we know it. The impact of these bills will not only affect my neighborhood school (force them to consider cyberschooling because it's cheaper) but also affect my property values (we all want to live in a community with good schools). I am not convinced charter schools and cyber schools are the answer. Please don't ruin public education.

Carolyn Claerhout  
Concerned Parent

## **Leta Howard**

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**From:** Diane Karabetsos <djkarabetsos@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 2:13 PM  
**To:** Leta Howard  
**Subject:** testimony

Thank you for including in today's testimony the following speech that I signed up to present:

I am a senior Grosse Pointe resident with no children in school. My five sons have long since graduated from the Grosse Pointe schools, but I choose to pay high taxes and support the schools because I understand the value of a great education. As a realtor and former teacher I know the community is intricately tied to the local school. Our property values have always reflected this. Our community has been willing to pay for bond issues and sinking fund millage. However districts that are forced to have open enrollment will find it difficult to pass future bond issues that do not benefit their own residents,

The majority of districts in Michigan already have chosen open enrollment or schools of choice. Why is there a need to take away local decision making from the remaining districts who do not want schools of choice? The state already dictates the curriculum and finances. Please let us decide who will attend our schools!

# CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

## RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SCHOOL OF CHOICE MANDATE

**WHEREAS**, on April 27, 2011, Governor Rick Snyder published his plan for Education Reform to the Michigan Legislature, specifically "Any Time, Any Place, Any Pace", proposing legislation to include a provision for "schools of choice" and will no longer allow school districts to opt out of accepting out-of-district students;

**WHEREAS**, the Grosse Pointe communities have already been financially, legislatively, and culturally affected by the redistricting map signed by Governor Snyder on August 9, 2011, and will further dilute the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods communities influence when addressing common school interests of the Grosse Pointe Public School System;

**WHEREAS**, the Grosse Pointe Public Schools taxpayers take pride in our schools and voted for increased millages to provide a high-level curriculum and facilities to our students, and to enact school of choice would be an injustice to community taxpayers;

**WHEREAS**, students whose parents are taxpayers stand the chance of being bumped from their ability to participate in extracurricular programs such as athletics and clubs by students whose parents do not pay taxes to the district;

**WHEREAS**, it is due to local control that Grosse Pointe Public Schools has established high standards for education through the efforts of its Board of Education, Administration, teachers, staff, parent-boosters, and students who fully vest themselves into the community by giving of their time for extracurricular activities, fund raising, and community service events;

**WHEREAS**, mandatory schools of choice may negatively affect graduation ratios and test scores;

**AND, WHEREAS**, proposed legislation to implement mandatory schools of choice is being considered by the State Legislature and the City of Grosse Pointe is now taking a proactive step in voicing opposition to the legislation from Lansing that would mandate school of choice to all Michigan districts and legislation that interferes with local control of our schools;

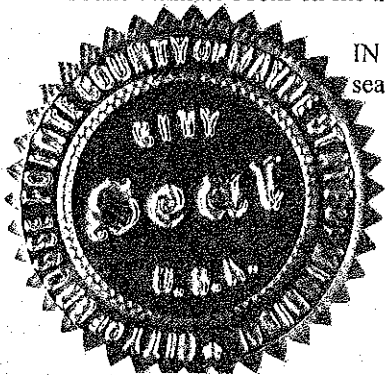
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Grosse Pointe urges Governor Snyder and the State of Michigan Legislature to oppose mandated schools of choice and loss of local control of schools, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the Governor, the legislative leaders of the State House and Senate, the current State Representative and Senator representing the Grosse Pointes, and the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Board of Education.

AYES: Boettcher, Parthum, Stempfle, Stevens, Walsh, Weipert, Mayor Scrace  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted on September 19, 2011.

I, Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk of the City of Grosse Pointe, do hereby certify that this resolution is a true and exact copy of the action taken by the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe on September 19, 2011, as it appears in the City Council minute books on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the City of Grosse Pointe on September 20, 2011.



  
JULIE E. ARTHURS  
City Clerk